



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

Fiscal Note 2009 Biennium

Bill #	HB0646	Title:	Require testing in English for professional/occupational & driver licenses
Primary Sponsor:	Butcher, Edward B	Status:	As Introduced

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Local Gov Impact | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Needs to be included in HB 2 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Technical Concerns |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Included in the Executive Budget | <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Long-Term Impacts | <input type="checkbox"/> Dedicated Revenue Form Attached |

FISCAL SUMMARY

	<u>FY 2008 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2009 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2010 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2011 Difference</u>
Expenditures:				
General Fund	\$480,557	\$555,876	\$569,773	\$584,018
Revenue:				
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Impact-General Fund Balance	<u>(\$480,557)</u>	<u>(\$555,876)</u>	<u>(\$569,773)</u>	<u>(\$584,018)</u>

Description of Fiscal Impact:

This bill will provide that applicants for a Montana driver's license demonstrate reasonable fluency in English. The costs associated with this would be the cost of administering a test to determine the applicant's fluency.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Assumptions:

Department of Justice

1. This bill provides that applicant's for a Montana driver's license must demonstrate reasonable fluency in English, tests and examinations must be given to and responded to by the applicant in English, and individuals applying for a renewal or transfer of a driver's license from another state are required to provide proof that they have successfully completed a driving knowledge test in English.
2. Since this data is not recorded in an individual's driver license record nor is there a requirement that this data be captured and recorded in the driver license record, there is no documentation available to prove

that an individual has successfully met the English proficiency requirements of this bill and it is assumed that everyone applying for a new, renewal, or transferred driver's license will be required to retest.

3. Each knowledge test requires approximately 10 to 12 minutes to administer. Approximately 200,000 tests are given each year which would require 16.00 additional FTE (200,000 tests x 10 min/test divided by 60 min / hour divided by 2080 hours / year for 1 FTE). Personal services would increase approximately \$483,376 a year (\$30,211 x 16.00 FTE). These numbers are inflated 2.5% in FY 2010 and FY 2011.
4. Operating costs for phone and computer communications, supplies and rent would increase approximately \$72,500 a year. These numbers are inflated 2.5% in FY 2010 and FY 2011.
5. One-time operating expenses for new employee package (desk, chair, and computer) would be \$44,400 (New employee package \$1,375 + new PC \$1,400 = \$2,775 x 16 FTE).
6. Administrative rules would be required to establish the criteria for English proficiency tests and their application within the driver licensing process. Operating expenditures would increase \$750 in FY 2008 for this rule making process.
7. Costs to contract with experts in this proficiency testing area are estimated at \$18,500 in FY 2008 (\$15,000 for consulting fees and \$3,500 in travel) for the development of appropriate testing procedures as provided for within this bill.
8. It is assumed this bill would be effective October 1, 2007, therefore, personal services and annual operating costs would be 25 percent less than a full fiscal year.

	<u>FY 2008 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2009 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2010 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2011 Difference</u>
<u>Fiscal Impact:</u>				
Department of Justice				
FTE	12.00	16.00	16.00	16.00
<u>Expenditures:</u>				
Personal Services	\$362,532	\$483,376	\$495,460	\$507,847
Operating Expenses	\$118,025	\$72,500	\$74,313	\$76,171
TOTAL Expenditures	\$480,557	\$555,876	\$569,773	\$584,018
<u>Funding of Expenditures:</u>				
General Fund (01)	\$480,557	\$555,876	\$569,773	\$584,018
<u>Revenues:</u>				
General Fund (01)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Funding of Expenditures):</u>				
General Fund (01)	(\$480,557)	(\$555,876)	(\$569,773)	(\$584,018)

Technical Notes:

1. The English proficiency tests would also have to be given by the Traffic Education instructors who issue the TELL (Traffic Education Learners License).
2. Many individuals who seek and obtain a Montana driver's license have a speech disability and are unable to speak. It is assumed that these individuals would be allowed to respond with written English communication since this bill requires that the applicant respond to the testing in English.

3. Since this data is not recorded in an individual's driver license record nor is there a requirement that this data be captured and recorded in the driver license record, there is no documentation available to prove that an individual has successfully met the English proficiency requirements of this bill.

Sponsor's Initials

Date

Budget Director's Initials

Date